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WASHINGTON

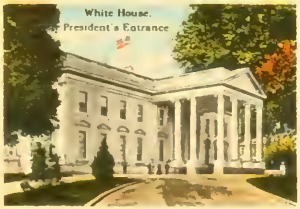
The Nation's Capital

Peace Monument.

Bird's Eye View, East From Monument.

WASHINGTON
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

White House.
President's Entrance



Descriptive Text by Charles B. Reynolds

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THE CAPITOL.

THE United States Capitol has place among the great architectural achievements of the world; its beauty of design and magnificence of proportions command universal admiration. To an American it makes direct and powerful appeal as the seat of government. In the far extending marble walls, the columned porticoes, the majestic dome uplifted against the sky, in the whole stately fabric, he sees a material and visible embodiment of the soul of the nation. The entire length is 751 feet, the width 350 feet, and the Dome rises 300 feet. The corner stone was laid by Washington in 1793, the central building was occupied in 1827, and the Senate and House extensions in 1857 and 1859.

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THE CAPITOL.

THE CAPITOL FROM THE WEST.

THE Capitol is set on a hill overlooking the amphitheater of the Potomac. From the West front the view extends over the far-flung city and the encircling hills to Arlington beyond the river. The central building contains the Supreme Court Room, Statuary Hall and the Rotunda. In the north wing is the Senate Chamber, and in the south the Hall of Representatives. Ample grounds with noble trees and sloping lawns secure for the Capitol an air of retirement and aloofness from the turmoil of the town.

THE CAPITOL FROM THE WEST

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

AS here seen from the Capitol, the out-standing features of the Library of Congress are the central entrance pavilion, with its Corinthian columns, the gold dome and the finial Torch of Science, ever burning. The windows of the facades carry carved heads of the races of men, and in those of the pavilion are colossal portrait busts of authors. Above the entrances are sculptured Literature, Science and Art; the bronze doors personify Tradition, Writing and Printing. Thus the exterior adornment is everywhere suggestive of the purpose of the Library Building; and prepares one for the gorgeous and dazzling splendor within—the polished marbles and pictured walls of vestibule and hall and corridor and pavilion, and the great central rotunda reading room.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

WHITE HOUSE.

THE White House seen through the trees from Pennsylvania Avenue is one of the most familiar of American scenes. The dignity and grace of the edifice are enhanced by the spacious lawns and the fine old trees. A peculiar human interest attaches to the White House as the home of the President's Family; and the successive changes of occupancy have filled its past with historic incident. It is the oldest public building here; the cornerstone was laid by Washington in 1792, and it has been the Executive Mansion from the time of John Adams. Presidents come and Presidents go; the White House endures to welcome the coming, speed the going guest.

WHITE HOUSE.

WHITE HOUSE—EAST ENTRANCE.

THE East Entrance is the one most familiar to the visitor who comes to the White House not on public business but as the possessor of a one hundred-millionth share of ownership in the Nation's domestic establishment. The colonnaded approach leads to the basement corridor. Here are portraits of the wives of the Presidents and in a room opening off the corridor is displayed an interesting exhibit of the china table services used by successive mistresses of the White House.

WHITE HOUSE, EAST ENTRANCE.

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

PENNSYLVANIA Avenue is one of the great historic streets of the world. It connects the Capitol and the White House—the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Government. Along its broad expanse and magnificent distances is the route of the Inaugural procession; and the Avenue is associated with numberless military, political and civic parades. This is the conventional view from the Treasury at Fifteenth Street, looking east, with the Dome of the Capitol closing the vista, an airy vision in the distance.

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

UNITED STATES TREASURY.

THE United States Treasury Building is of the monumental type. With a width of 250 feet on Pennsylvania Avenue, and a depth of 450 feet, it covers an entire block. The features of the exterior which give it dignity are the great colonnade of Ionic columns extending along the Fifteenth Street front and the columned porticoes of the other fronts. The impression of massiveness and security which is given from without is intensified when in the course of the conventional Treasury tour we penetrate the dark corridors and narrow passage ways in the lower regions of money vaults and time locks.

UNITED STATES TREASURY.

NEW BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.

ALTHOUGH the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is an immense manufacturing establishment, and in plan and construction has been made a model factory plant, the artistic treatment of the exterior has been so happy that the building has part in the composition of a very charming picture. The Bureau is a branch of the Treasury; here are manufactured the National bank notes and bonds, the postage and revenue stamps; military, naval and diplomatic commissions; passports and other documents.

THE NEW BUREAU OF PRINTING AND ENGRAVING ON POTOMAC PARK AND BASIN

STATE, WAR AND NAVY BUILDING.

IN Pennsylvania Avenue, beginning with Fifteenth Street, opposite Lafayette Park, grouped together are three edifices devoted to the executive branch of the Government—the Treasury, the White House, and the State, War and Navy Building. The State, War and Navy Building is a great Office Building. With a frontage of 342 feet on the Avenue, and a depth of 565 feet, it has two miles of marble halls and 500 rooms. As the name implies, it provides for the three departments, the War Department occupying the West wing, the Navy Department the East, and the State Department the South.

STATE, WAR AND NAVY BUILDING.

UNION STATION.

THE Union Station, designed by Daniel H. Burnham and constructed of Vermont white marble, is monumental in plan, and of such magnitude that it is to be described only in an array of figures. The length of 700 feet and the width of 443 feet give it an area exceeding that of the Capitol. The Main Waiting Room is 220x130 feet with a height of 120 feet. The Passenger Concourse, 760 feet in length, is the largest room in the world under one roof. An army of 50,000 men could stand on the floor. In the Plaza is the Columbus Monument.

UNION STATION

CITY POST OFFICE.

THE City Post Office is a fine example of the new type of public buildings, planned to insure the most convenience and efficiency in the use to which they are devoted. The building material is white marble. On the Capitol Park front extends a line of columns; and inserted over the entrances are the sentiments chosen by Dr. Eliot;

"Carrier of news and knowledge, instrument of trade and industry, promoter of mutual acquaintance, of peace and good-will among men and nations." "Messenger of sympathy and love, servant of parted friends, consoler of the lonely, bond of the scattered family, enlarger of common life."

NEW POST OFFICE.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

THE Washington Monument is a shaft of stone rising from the Mall 555 feet in air. It is the highest work of masonry in the world. It is 55 feet square at the base, tapering to 34 feet at the top. The walls are 15 feet in thickness at the entrance, and 18 inches at the top of the shaft. The facing is of pure white marble. From whatever point it is beheld, the prodigious shaft is an impressive spectacle. It seems to be uplifted above the plane of human achievement and to belong rather with the great phenomena of nature—the mighty wind, the sunshine and the shadow, the driving mist, the clouds and the sky.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

THE dark toned towers of the Smithsonian Institution, standing out above the green mass of the Mall, make one of the most picturesque and grateful of Washington scenes. The architectural design, Romanesque of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, denominates the structure as the home of "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." The Smithsonian is a leader among the learned institutions of the world. Devoted to stimulating and encouraging scientific investigations and study, it carries on explorations and expeditions in different parts of the world; gathers collections which are housed here and in the National Museum; publishes reports and scientific papers, and in many different ways adds to the knowledge and promotes the progress of the world.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

THE Municipal Building, fronting on Pennsylvania Avenue at 14th Street, houses the several departments of the Government of the District of Columbia. It is of white marble and in design and decoration is typical of the architectural monuments which mark the development of the city.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

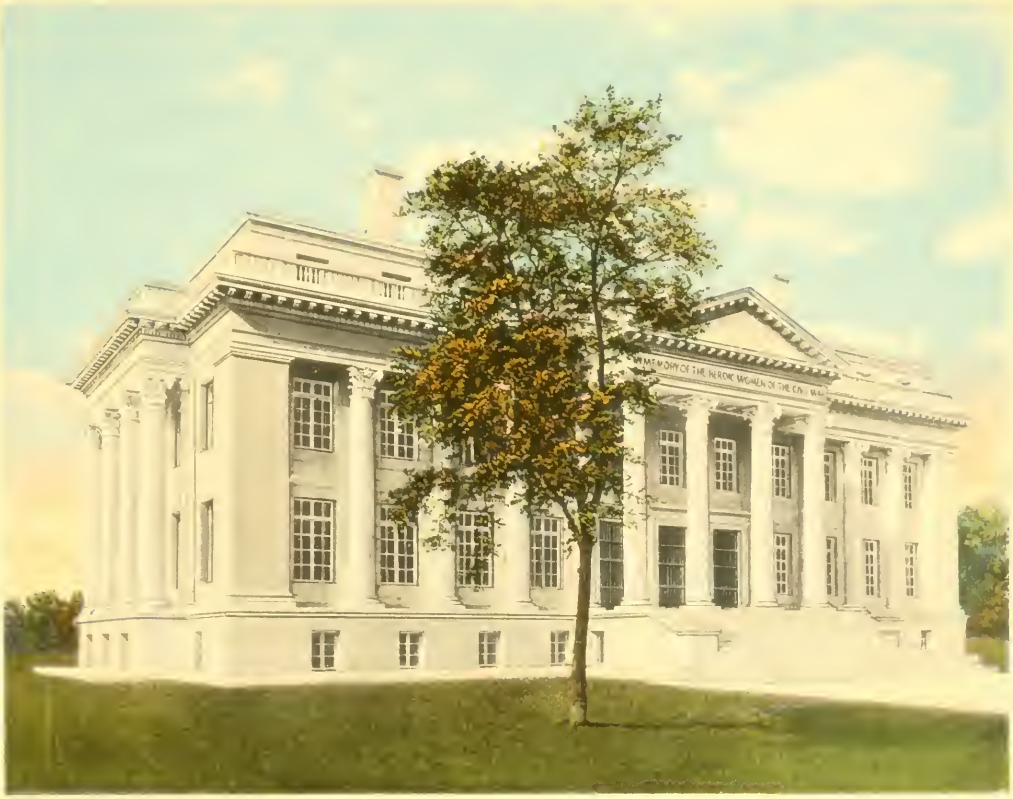
CORCORAN ART GALLERY.

THE Corcoran Art Gallery on Seventeenth Street is of Georgia white marble. Below the elaborately carved cornice runs a frieze bearing the names of great artists, and the entrance is guarded by sculptured lions which are replicas of the lions of Canova, at the tomb of Clement XIII in St. Peter's Rome. The Gallery takes its name from William W. Corcoran, a citizen of Washington, by whom it was founded and endowed. The large collections of paintings and sculpture give it a place among the most important art institutions of the country. It maintains the Corcoran School of Art.

CORCORAN ART GALLERY.

RED CROSS MEMORIAL.

TO the group of buildings which give Seventeenth Street its architectural splendor has been added the Red Cross Memorial, devoted to the commemoration of the heroic women of the Civil War. The building material is white marble. The great assembly room is entirely in white with crimson hangings, the colors of the Red Cross. Significant features of the Memorial are the three stained glass windows provided by the Women's Relief Association of the North and the Daughters of the Confederacy of the South, representing these Northern and Southern organizations and the Red Cross.



RED CROSS MEMORIAL.

MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL.

THE Memorial Continental Hall, one of the notable group of structures on Seventeenth Street, is the home of the National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution. It is used as an Administration Building, and the Society's annual congresses are held here. The building was designed by Edward Pearce Casey of Library of Congress fame, who found his inspiration in the architectural development of the American Colonial period. The Hall embodies in high degree the best elements of the Colonial style. The thirteen fluted columns of the south portico are memorials of the original Thirteen States.

MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL.

PAN-AMERICAN UNION.

THE Home of the Pan-American Union has aptly been termed a Capitol of the American Republics in the Capital of the U. S. The building was erected at a cost of one million dollars contributed by Andrew Carnegie and the 21 nations forming the Union. In design and adornment the Latin-American building is significant of its purpose. On the front are groups representing North America and South America, and panels representing Washington's Farewell to his Generals and the meeting of the two great South American liberators, Bolivar and San Martin. Two notable features within the building are the typical Latin-American patio, with fountain and tropical foliage, and the magnificent Hall of the Americas, an assembly room unsurpassed in this country.

PAN-AMERICAN UNION.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL.

THE Lincoln Memorial occupies a site in the Mall, on the axis of the Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the projected Washington-Arlington Bridge over the Potomac. The architect was Henry Bacon. The Memorial is a structure of white marble surrounded by Doric columns 40 feet in height, and 31 columns representing the 31 states of the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. In this setting is placed the bronze statue of Lincoln by Daniel C. French. On the walls, lettered in enduring brass, are inscribed the Second Inaugural Address and the Gettysburg Address.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL.

OLD NATIONAL MUSEUM.

THE National Museum is a depository of all objects of art and of foreign and curious research, and of natural history, plants and geological and mineralogical specimens belonging to the United States. The collections embrace millions of objects illustrating in endless array the fields of natural history and of human development. Particularly complete are the collections relating to the zoology, geology, botany, ethnology and archaeology of the United States. This is the old Museum Building which was opened in 1881.

OLD NATIONAL MUSEUM.

U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

THE building of the Department of the Interior is popularly called the Patent Office, since it is best known by reason of its association with the inventive genius and the wonderful industrial development of the United States. The fine portico on F St. is adorned with Doric columns which were copied in pattern and dimensions from those of the Parthenon.

U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS CIRCLE.

THOMAS Circle is one of the most pleasing of the open spaces which, with their memorial bronzes and settings of shrub and flower, contribute so much to Washington's attractiveness. The park takes its name from Ward's equestrian statue of Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, a tribute provided by the Army of Cumberland. Facing the circle is the Lutheran Memorial Church. The radiating streets are Fourteenth Street on the left and Vermont Avenue on the right.

THOMAS CIRCLE.

THE SOLDIERS HOME.

FROM the Capitol one may see on the rim of the hills in the north the United States Soldiers' Home with the Norman tower of the Scott building shining out in clear relief. The Home is for the benefit of men who have been honorably discharged from the regular army, or have been disabled in the service. In addition to the main building named for General Winfield Scott, are others which bear the names of Sherman, Sheridan and Robert Anderson. The Home is delightfully situated in a noble estate of rolling contours, majestic trees and superb views.

SOLDIERS' HOME.

NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM.

THE white granite structure of the new National Museum in the Mall is a building of magnificent proportions, having a frontage of 561 ft., a depth of 365 ft., and a height of 82 ft. The cost was $3,500,000.00. In design and arrangement it represents the most advanced development of Museum planning. It houses the great Government collections of natural history, geology, ethnology and archaeology, and there are exhibited here the paintings belonging to the National Gallery of Art.

NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

THE Government Printing Office is reputed to be the largest and most completely equipped printing establishment in existence. The payroll aggregates $4,000,000 a year, and the annual printed product is of amazing bulk. Here are printed the Congressional Record, reporting the proceedings and debates of Congress (including the inordinately prolix speeches which were never actually spoken by the Honorable members who father them in the Record), the Patent Office Gazette, the Smithsonian Reports, the Agricultural Bulletins, and whatever in the vast business of the Government finds its way into print.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

PENSION OFFICE.

IN the immense red brick building in Judiciary Square are filed millions of individual war records, and here are administered the activities of the Pension Office. There is no pretension of architectural grace, it is just a huge building, but in the sculptured frieze which is the sole adornment of the exterior we may find eloquent suggestions of the services and sacrifices of the veterans to whose interests the office is devoted. Within is a glass-roofed court, on whose floor, on occasions of the Inaugural Balls, room has been found for 18,000 persons.

PENSION OFFICE.

CUSTIS-LEE MANSION, ARLINGTON.

THE Custis-Lee Mansion, on Arlington Heights, across the Potomac from Washington, is one of the historic houses of America. It was built in 1802 by Washington's adopted son, G. W. Parke Custis, who made it renowned for a half-century as a home of Virginia hospitality. It descended to the children of Mary Custis Lee, wife of Colonel Robert E. Lee, who lived here, and then, by a series of romantic circumstances growing out of the vicissitudes of the Civil War, it came eventually into the possession of the United States. Today it is surrounded by the sleeping hosts of the Arlington National Cemetery.

CUSTIS-LEE MANSION

WASHINGTON'S MANSION, MT. VERNON, VA.

WASHINGTON'S Mansion at Mount Vernon on the Potomac is in the possession and keeping of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. Whatever changes in minor details the years may have brought, one feels that in its larger aspects the scene is today as it was in Washington's time; and a visit to Mount Vernon does not fail to bring Washington, the historic character, closer to us as Washington, the man. The Mansion overlooks the Potomac. Not far from the house is the Tomb.

WASHINGTON'S MANSION, MOUNT VERNON, VA.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

THE huge bulk of the Post Office Department, with the tower rising 300 feet above the street, is a commanding feature of Pennsylvania Avenue. The gray granite building houses the branch of the government with whose workings we are in constant personal touch. Here is the control of a vast system, whose service extends to every human habitation in the land; from here is out stretched the hand that rings a million doorbells every day.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH FRONT.

THE President's grounds stretch south to merge with the Mall; looking out upon them is the rounded balcony with its colonnade, one of the most pleasing features of the White House. The grounds are beautiful with wealth of tree and shrub and flower bed; a fountain reflects columns and cornice, and there are well-kept lawns, where on Easter Monday the Washington children celebrate their Easter egg-rolling frolics.

WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH FRONT.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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